

Remarks

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of a telephonic interview with the undersigned on October 5, 2004. During the interview the Examiner indicated that the proposed claim amendments set forth above would be entered upon the filing of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312.

Claims 20, 26 and 30 have been amended to replace the expression "wherein said enzyme is horseradish peroxidase" with "wherein said antibody is labeled with an enzyme." New claims 35, 36 and 37 depend from claims 20, 26 and 30, respectively, and specify that the enzyme is horseradish peroxidase.

In accordance with M.P.E.P. § 714.16, Applicants submit the following remarks in regards to the amendments presented above:

(A) The amendment is needed to provide antecedent basis for the expression "wherein said enzyme is horseradish peroxidase," found in previously presented claims 20, 26 and 30 and now found in new claims 35, 36, and 37.

(B) The proposed amended and new claims require no additional search or examination because the amended and new claims encompass subject matter that was encompassed by the allowed claims and do not introduce any new matter. Support for the amended and new claims can be found in the specification, for example, at page 7, lines 11-15.

(C) The claims are patentable for the same reasons that the previously presented claims are patentable.

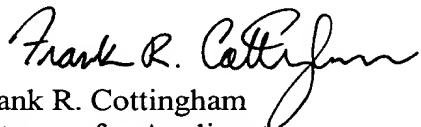
(D) The amended and new claims were not presented earlier because Applicants (and the Examiner) inadvertently overlooked the antecedent basis problem

with claims 20, 26 and 30. The antecedent basis problem was discovered only upon a review of the claims by Applicants following receipt of the Notice of Allowance.

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment be entered.

Respectfully submitted,

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